

hazard a guess that there is not one member of the House of Representatives who has served in the last 30-plus years who does not know and love Muftiah—whether in her role as a parliamentarian, as a staff member on the Committee on Appropriations, or in her most recent role as the staff director of the Rules Committee. In every instance she brought a fundamental fairness, openmindedness, kindness and an incredible work ethic. She handled herself with the utmost professionalism even in the most trying of circumstances—namely having to deal with the 435 of us, and on occasion having to tell us something we did not want to hear.

As I look back on the words of tribute spoken last week by so many of my colleagues I am most impressed by the fact that those words were all spoken from the heart, as are mine. They were not words of canned praise, nor were they sterile platitudes—they were expressions of genuine friendship and respect. I will not repeat what was said about Muftiah's distinguished career—although it bears remembering. Rather I will share a few reflections from her time working for the Appropriations Committee when I was chairman.

In 2005 during my first year as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, it was Muftiah who patiently schooled me and my staff in the complexities of House Rules as we worked on the 11 appropriations bills that came to the House floor that year. I think it is fair to say that had it not been for Muftiah, we would not have successfully completed our important work in a manner that was open and fair to all the Members. In 2006 I had the good fortune to be able to convince Muftiah to leave the parliamentarian's office and come to work on the Committee on Appropriations. I expect the parliamentarian and his able colleagues might still be angry with me for that, but they have, as usual, been very gracious. While Muftiah knew the rules under which we consider appropriations bills each year better than anyone else on my staff, especially the intricacies of the Budget Act, she did not have a background in the minutia of the appropriations and budgeting process. What she did have—and still does—is an incredibly keen mind and a tenacious work ethic.

I assigned Muftiah to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, the second largest and one of the most important bills that touch the lives of every one of our constituents. As soon as she got there I observed her dig into budgets and programs as if she had been doing it all of her life. She quickly grasped arcane budgetary concepts, made the difficult recommendations that the committee staff must make to Members every day, asked the tough questions that must be asked in order to produce a responsible budget, and mentored younger staff in the rules and procedures of the House. As we knew would happen when she was hired, Muftiah could not learn enough, soaking up every bit of knowledge she could come by.

Now we bid a fond farewell to a loving wife and mother, a fierce friend, a great employee and a true institutionalist when it comes to this House. Muftiah has demonstrated a love and commitment to this institution and to public service that unfortunately we don't see often enough. Her work is an example that all of us should take note of and aspire to emulate. I can think of no greater role model for girls and

young women than Muftiah McCartin—a woman who put herself through law school while holding down a full-time job and raising a family; one who understands that we have far more in common than we have differences; one who never put politics before principle; and a woman who faced every challenge, no matter how difficult, with a smile on her face and a kind word for all. My wife, Arlene, and I wish her all the best in the many years to come.

HONORING MRS. MAY TO

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. May To, who passed away on May 8, 2010, at the young age of 60. My heart goes out to her husband, Alex To; her sons, Jonathan and Brian To; and the rest of her family, friends and loved ones.

Mrs. To was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for immigrant children, youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley for more than a quarter century. Her volunteerism and service spanned several organizations including the Chinatown Service Center, Alhambra School District and the International Institute of Los Angeles.

Born in Canton, China in 1950, May grew up in Hong Kong, where she completed her bachelor's degree in sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1975. She came to the United States on an exchange scholarship to study at UCLA in 1977 and received her master's degree in education in two years.

She spent the late 1970s and early 80s helping her fellow immigrants to make the most of the opportunities provided by her adopted country, teaching ESL courses to fifth-graders and serving as assistant director of The Chinatown Service Center, where she oversaw refugee employment, social service and youth programs among others.

In 1984, May worked with the Asian Task Force of the United Way to create the Asian Youth Center, which was meant to fill a gap in critical services for immigrant children, youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. In 1984, she became the Center's Executive Director.

Since then and under her leadership, Asian Youth Center has grown from a three-person project to a large, community-based organization with a budget of over \$1.7 million and a 57-person staff, serving more than 8,500 Asian and non-Asian children, youth and families.

May's tireless efforts have helped shape the Asian American, Latino American, and other immigrant communities residing in the San Gabriel Valley. Her commitment to improving access to health services, social services, and youth development opportunities for immigrants have improved the lives of countless children, youth and families over the last 20 years.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. May To for her stellar record of personal, professional and civic leadership, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable serv-

ice and contributions to her community and to our nation.

317TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL AND CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, for the past 48 years, members of this great government have taken pause to honor law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Remembering the sacrifice of their fallen brethren, the men and women of the 317th Military Police Battalion gathered to hold their annual Law Enforcement Memorial and Candlelight Vigil.

I am proud to join with them as they pay tribute to the last great offering of freedom given by thirty-eight United States Army soldiers, eight United States Air Force airmen, eight United States Navy sailors, five United States Marine Corp Marines, and four civilian police professionals. As the roll was called and Taps played, the 317th memorialized those who fulfilled their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bannered this event the words from Tacitus: "In valor, there is hope." I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking those who protect the liberties of this great Nation. May these words from ancient Rome remind us all of our duty to service, and may they offer us a light of gratitude for those whose service does not lead them home.

SECTION 45G SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support the extension of the Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit.

The Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit expired on December 31, 2009 and has yet to be extended. Because this credit has not been renewed, the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, a 165 mile short line railroad in my district, has been unable to move forward on necessary infrastructure improvements. The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad provides rail freight service through towns like Lewiston-Auburn, Mechanic Falls and Bethel in my district. An extension of the Section 45G tax credit will ensure that they can continue to put Mainers to work making the track improvements necessary to serve communities throughout Maine.

Many businesses in my district use the St. Lawrence & Atlantic to connect to the national freight rail network. An extension of the Section 45G tax credit will help short line railroads make the improvements necessary to continue connecting Maine businesses with the national rail network, aiding economic development efforts and promoting business growth throughout Maine.